



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1135

DATE: June 4, 2012

TO: Iowa Medicaid Pharmacies

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Member Lock-In: Altering a Prescription Claim and Changing the Prescribing Provider's National Provider Identifier (NPI) Number

It has come to the attention of the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise that some pharmacy providers are not following the correct procedure for filling prescriptions for Iowa Medicaid Lock-In members that present a prescription from a non Lock-In provider to the pharmacy.

In some instances, pharmacies are substituting the NPI number of the prescribing provider with the NPI number of the Lock-In primary care physician (PCP). All prescriptions must be run under the prescribing provider's NPI number. Prescriptions will be reimbursed only if written or approved by the member's Lock-In PCP. Pharmacies must contact the Lock-In PCP for approval of any medications that are not written by the Lock-In PCP. Approval should be obtained by the pharmacy contacting the PCP. Once approval is received from the PCP, the pharmacy should contact the Iowa Medicaid Lock-In department to process the prescription override. The prescription is always processed under the appropriate prescribing provider.

Changing an original claim or filling a prescription that was prescribed by one physician and submitting it with another physician's NPI number is in direct violation of Chapter 18 of United States Code (U.S.C.), section 1347, Health Care Fraud, and Chapter 18, U.S.C., section 1028A, Aggravated Identity Theft. The Iowa Medicaid Fraud Unit has been made aware of this situation.

The IME appreciates your continued partnership as we work to improve the care of Iowa Medicaid members while reducing unnecessary medical costs. For further questions about the program please contact the Iowa Medicaid Lock-In program at 1-800-338-8366, or locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4606, option 2.